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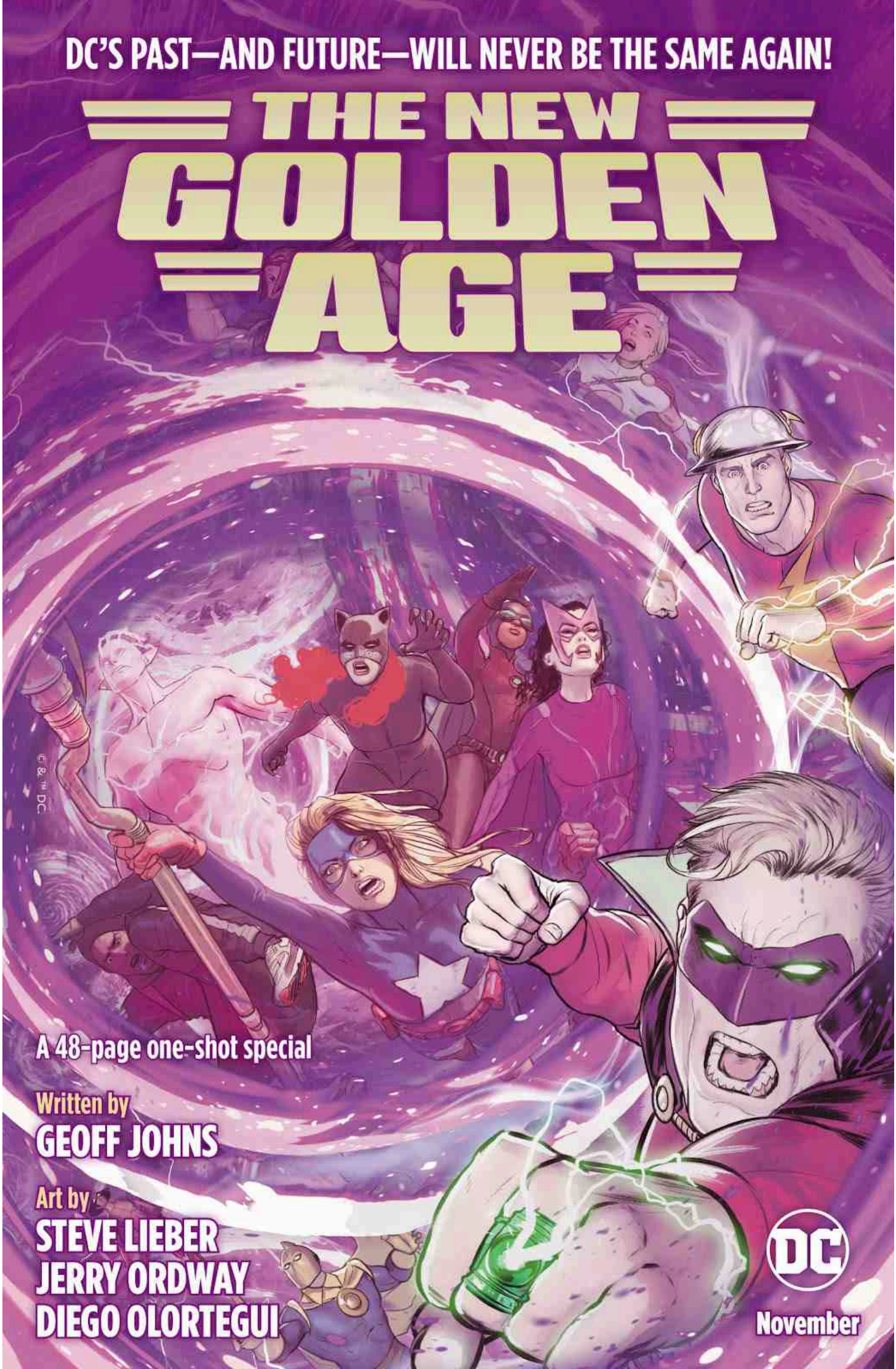
DC'S PAST—AND FUTURE—WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN!

THE NEW GOLDEN AGE



A 48-page one-shot special

Written by
GEOFF JOHNS

Art by
STEVE LIEBER
JERRY ORDWAY
DIEGO OLORTEGUI

DC

November

GOTHAM CITY.
10:06 P.M.

A rich old lady gets run over by a bus. In her will she wants all her money divided equally among the following people...

An honest politician. A good cop. A desperate homeless person...

...and Santa Claus.
HEY! YOU TWO. LEAVE THAT MAN ALONE.

When the time came to divide up all the money...
NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY.
THIS STATION IS MARCH STREET. THIS IS AN UPTOWN J TRAIN.
LET ME GO!
...her lawyer had to give it all to the homeless man.
Want to know why?
NEXT STOP IS GWYNPLAINE. STAND CLEAR OF THE CLOSING DOORS.
SOMEBODY STOP THEM! POLICE!
Because those other people aren't real.

8:42 P.M.

YOU'D THINK THE #*@%#$* CITY WOULD CLEAN IT UP WHEN SOMEONE GETS KILLED IN YOUR PLACE.
THIS IS EVIDENCE, AIN'T IT?
EVERYONE'S GOT A LOT ON THEIR PLATE THESE DAYS.

YOU SAID ON THE NEWS THAT THE MAN IN YOUR BATHROOM WAS THE JOKER?
NO. I SAID HE LOOKED LIKE THE JOKER. THE REAL GUY WAS IN CALIFORNIA AT THE TIME, RIGHT? IT WAS ALL OVER THE TV.
THIS WAS ALL IN MY STATEMENT TO YOU GUYS. IF I GO OVER IT AGAIN, YOU GOING TO LET ME OPEN THIS PLACE BACK UP?

YOU ARE A COP, AREN'T YOU?
...NOT EXACTLY.

10:26 P.M.

A man needs a home. A place to lay his head.
NO ENTRY
DANGER! DO NOT ENTER
WARNING
DANGER! HIGHT VOLTAGE

NO ENTRY
People in this city always say there's a problem. Too many CRAZY people forced to live on the streets.
It never seems to dawn on them...

EXCUSE ME, KIND SIR.
#*@% OFF.
YES, GOOD POINT. BUT I WAS JUST WONDERING IF YOU KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS BUILDING?
IT DIDN'T USED TO BE LOCKED LIKE THIS.
NEW OWNER.
Maybe having nowhere to go is what MAKES you go crazy.

NEW OWNER? NO, THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. WHERE IS MR. CARDIFF?
I DON'T KNOW WHO THE %#*@ THAT IS...
WAIT...ARE YOU...?
HEY, GUYS! CHECK THIS OUT.
WHAT IS IT?
IS THIS DUDE WHO I THINK HE IS?!
NAH. THE MAN LEFT GOTHAM DAYS AGO. THIS IS JUST SOME WHACK-JOB STALKER.
HOW YOU KNOW THOUGH?
I'M JUST GOING TO GO.
But I get it. Being out on these streets is getting scary.
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, WHOEVER THE HELL YOU ARE.
THE RIDDLER IS GONNA WANNA TALK TO YOU.

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TELL YOUR BOSS NOT TO COME LOOKING FOR ME.
But that's CRAZY TALK.
I'LL TELL HIM...
NO, YOU WON'T.
YOU'RE THE REAL ONE, HUH?
WHO IS THE OTHER GUY?
BLAM
I DON'T KNOW. BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT.

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10:32 P.M.
EVENING, GENTLEMEN.
I'M DETECTIVE MacDONALD. THIS IS DETECTIVE DRIVER.
DISPATCH TOLD US WHY YOU CALLED US OUT HERE, BUT I'M REALLY GONNA NEED TO HEAR IT FROM YOU.
WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT I HAD TO LEAVE MY SNUGGLY, WARM STATION HOUSE TONIGHT, PATROLMAN?
WE CHASED THESE TWO ALL THE WAY FROM LARK STREET ON A ROBBERY CALL. PICKPOCKETING A DRUNK ON THE UPTOWN J.
TELL HER WHAT YOU TOLD US.
IT WAS THE JOKER.
PLEASE TELL ME THIS IS A ^%$*#* PRANK.
I KNOW YOU TWO DIDN'T FALL FOR THE WORST "I'VE GOT VALUABLE INFORMATION" ACT I'VE EVER HEARD.
CAPTAIN SAID ANY--
IGNORING THAT EVERYBODY WHO OWNS A TV KNOWS HE'S NOT IN GOTHAM, IF THESE TWO TODDLERS TRIED TO MUG THE JOKER YOU'D BE CLEANING THEM UP WITH A MOP RIGHT NOW.
JOSIE, WE'RE UP. SHOOTING. MULTIPLE CASUALTIES. FIFTEEN BLOCKS FROM HERE.
MORE FALLOUT FROM THE PENGUIN?
MAYBE. RESPONDING OFFICER THINKS BOTH VICTIMS ARE THE RIDDLER'S GUYS. WITNESS SAID SHOOTER AND THIRD VICTIM FLED ON FOOT.

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11:19 P.M.
I JUST CHANGED THAT DAMN BULB.
HOW MANY PEOPLE DOES IT TAKE TO SCREW IN A LIGHTBULB, MR. CARDIFF?
TWO. BUT THEY HAVE TO BE VERY SMALL.
BOSS? IS THAT REALLY YOU?

HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE I LIVED?
DO YOU THINK I DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO ALL THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR ME?
YES.
I'VE BEEN GONE FOR...WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
OH, THE HOLE IN MY HEAD? YES. I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT THAT MYSELF.
IT'S... REALLY YOU, ISN'T IT?
AS FAR AS I KNOW.
BUT YOU LOOKED SO DIFFERENT ON TV THE OTHER DAY?
WHERE IS EVERYONE?
UMM... EVERYONE WHO?
MY MEN. MY LOYAL HENCHMEN.
YOU WERE GONE A LONG TIME, BOSS.
AND NOW I'M BACK.
YOU LEFT, BOSS. THE OTHER FAMILIES ALL CAME FOR US. PENGUIN, BLACK MASK. RIDDLER. TWO-FACE. THEY PICKED US OFF ONE BY ONE.
SOME GUYS JOINED THE OTHER FAMILIES. THE ONES WHO STAYED LOYAL TO YOU WERE KILLED.
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
I...I'M GOOD AT TALKING MY WAY OUT OF THINGS.

TAOS.
9:21 P.M.

TAP TAP TAP

YOU SURE THERE ISN'T SOMETHING WE SHOULD BE DOING, BOSS?
WE *ARE* DOING SOMETHING. WE'RE LAYING LOW.

EVERYONE IN THE WORLD IS LOOKING FOR ME AND THEY THINK I AM IN LOS ANGELES. SO WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING TO CONTRADICT THAT.
WELL, ACCORDING TO SOME PEOPLE YOU'RE STILL IN GOTHAM, BOSS. HA.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WELL, THE OTHER JOKER... UMM...WE HEARD THE GUY KILLED SOME JUNKIE IN A BAR IN GOTHAM COUPLA DAYS AGO.
I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS. YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE MAN I SHOT AND HAD BURIED? THAT MAN?

I GUESS HE LIVED.
I GUESS SO.
NEXT QUESTION. WHEN YOU SAY THE OTHER JOKER, DO YOU NOT THINK THAT SOMEHOW GIVES VALIDITY TO THE MAN WHO TRIED TO STEAL MY IDENTITY?
I DIDN'T MEAN--

FINAL QUESTION!
WHAT'S THE FASTEST WAY TO PREVENT A MAN FROM DROWNING?
WH-WHAT? I DON'T--

SPLASH
YOU SHOOT HIM IN THE FACE.
"I JUST WANTED TO REST..."

AND I LIKED THAT BALLOON FACTORY. IT REMINDED ME OF MY CHILDHOOD HOME.
SORRY, BOSS. RIDDLER'S MEN ARE TAKING ALL THE TERRITORY THEY CAN.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. BUT DO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR BOOK OF CONTACTS? LET'S GO PAY SOME OF MY OLD FRIENDS A VISIT.
I DO BUT...NOW, BOSS?
A good joke should comfort you.
YES, WHY NOT...
OH.
Even if you've never heard it before, it should feel as familiar as the smile you see when you look in the mirror.
IT'S OKAY, BOSS. LET'S JUST GET YOU CLEANED UP A LITTLE, YEAH? YOU CAN SEE IF THERE ARE ANY CLOTHES YOU LIKE IN MY CLOSET.
YOU CAN TAKE A SHOWER, TOO. I'LL GO GET THE BOOK.
Because in those moments, those DECEPTIVE, comfortable moments...
FEEL FREE TO TRY ON ANYTHING IN THERE. I'M NOT AS SHARP A DRESSER AS YOU ARE, THOUGH.
...that is when we let our guard down.

11:23 P.M.
AND THEN HE SHOT MIKEY.
WHAT WERE YOU DOIN'?
I WAS GETTIN' THE HELL OUT OF THERE.
#$*# YOU THINK I WAS DOIN'?
THREE OF YOU AGAINST ONE GUY? I'M TRYNNA UNDERSTAND THIS.
I TOLD YOU. IT WAS THE %$*@#*$ JOKER! BUT, LIKE, ALL MESSED UP. HE--
AND I TOLD YOU BRO'S NOT IN GOTHAM. BRO WAS IN CALIFORNIA ON TV TAKING CREDIT FOR KILLING HALF THE BOSSES IN THE COUNTRY.
BUT NOBODY HAS SEEN HIM SINCE THEN.
LET YOUR MAN *TALK.*

WHAM
NO WAY! I HEARD YOU WAS DEAD!
I GOT BETTER.
I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE JOKER. START TALKING. NOW.
IT WAS JUST SOME CRAZY GUY, MAN. I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT DID HE WANT?
I-I DON'T KNOW.
DO BETTER.
KRSH
C-CARDIFF.
HE WAS LOOKING FOR SOME GUY NAMED CARDIFF.

1:36 A.M.

When our guard is down, we're at our most vulnerable.
It's when we feel free to be who we REALLY are. We can laugh.

We can fall in love. When your guard is down...
GOOD EVENING, MY DEAR. I--
...anything can happen.

11:52 P.M.

OKAY, YOU STUPID LITTLE RAT @#$* %#*$ OF A *#%*@. WAKE UP.
I'd be lying if I said I hadn't missed her soft, supple curses.
Her T's are so firm. And I love it when she spreads her L's for me.
But she really has the most spectacular R's of anyone I've ever met.
And oh, how she hates me. It would be ENGORGING if it weren't for all the blood loss.
SO HOW ARE YOU--
AHH! WHY THE $%*@ ARE YOU--
YOU GO FIRST.
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
BETTER.
OH, I'M SO SORRY.
WHAT?
WAIT, DO YOU MEAN LIKE YOU'VE BEEN BETTER OR YOU'VE BEEN BETTER?
WHAT?
LIKE "I WAS BETTER BEFORE" OR LIKE "THINGS ARE BETTER NOW"?
WHAT?!
12:19 A.M.
WHERE IS HE?!

YOU LOOK AWFUL.
DON'T SAY THAT. I JUST GOT THIS SUIT.
THE SUIT LOOKS FINE.
DO YOU REMEMBER THE LAST TIME YOU SAW ME? REMEMBER WHAT I DID TO YOU?
YOU...WERE MAD AT ME? I MUST ADMIT THAT MY MEMORY HAS BEEN OFF SINCE I GOT...SHOT IN THE HEAD.
WHICH TIME?
I KNOW YOU THINK I TREATED YOU WRONG. BUT I HAD NOWHERE TO GO. I LOST EVERYTHING SOMEHOW THIS TIME.
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS. SO PATHETIC.
I'M SORRY--
I LOVE IT!
12:38 A.M.
HE LEFT TOWN! I ASKED HIM TO TAKE ME BUT HE WOULDN'T. I SWEAR!
YOU'RE LETTING ME GO?
But the real reason I came here is because Harley is like a good joke.

I'M GOING TO GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK.
THAT'S VERY NICE OF YOU.
No matter what I'm going through, she will always be a comfort.

She is my home away from home.
NO. YOU JUST LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO DROP DEAD AND I DON'T WANT YOU DYING ON MY CARPET.

HE'S NOT IN GOTHAM, MAN! READ A PAPER, YOU PSYCHO!
1:02 A.M.

And I can let my guard down...
I BROUGHT YOUR FAVORITE, EARL GREY.
THAT'S NOT MY FAVORITE. I HATE TEA.

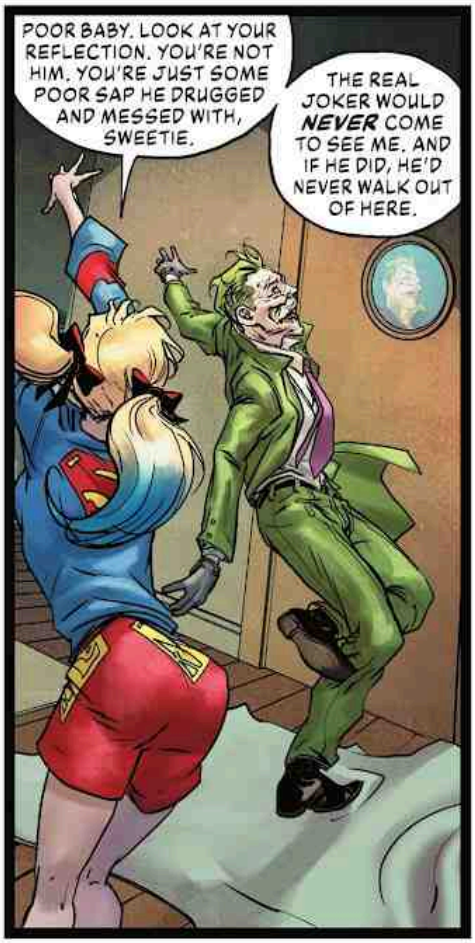
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
...because she knows the REAL me.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?!

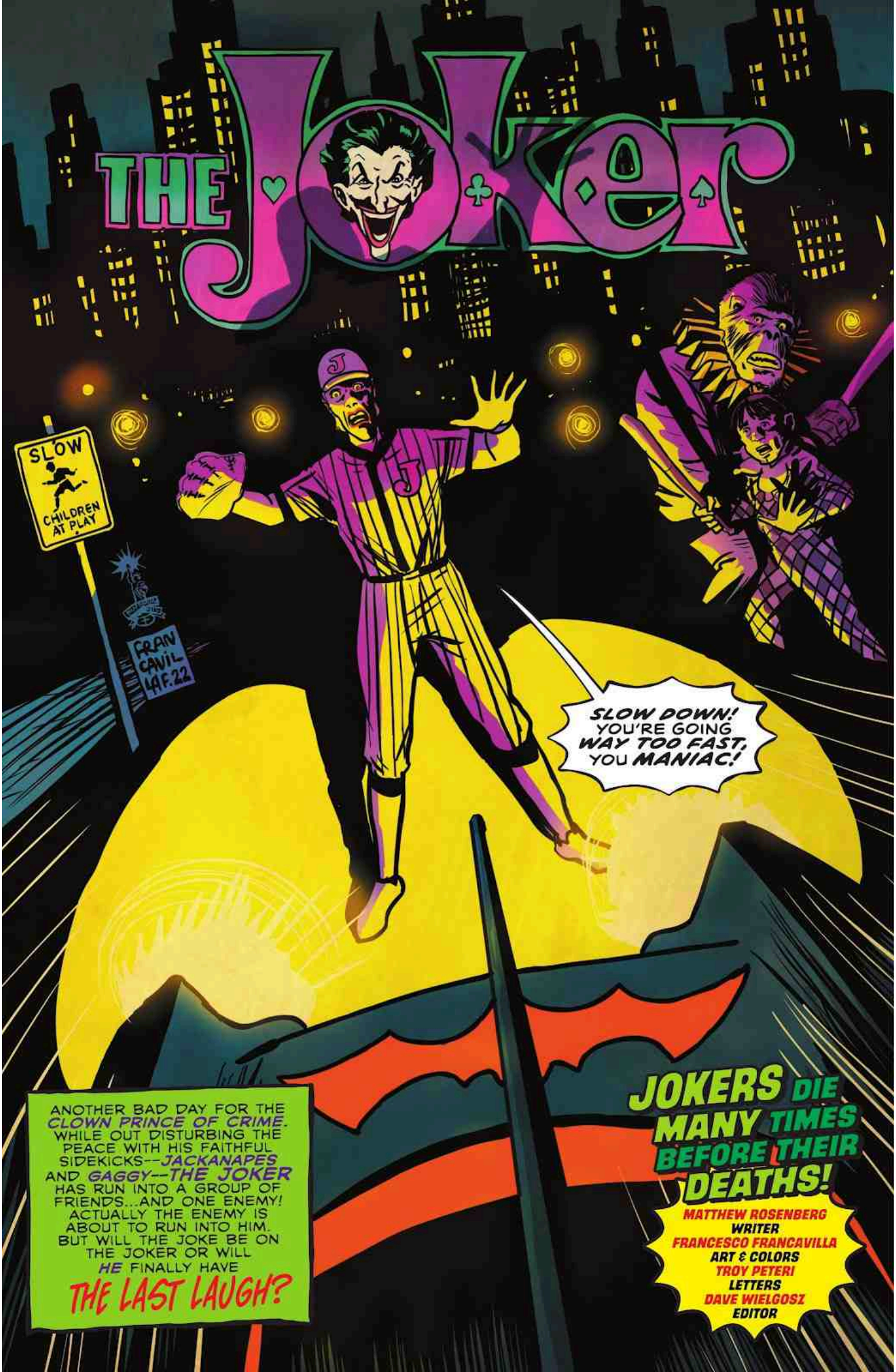
1:28 A.M.
NO HONEST CROOK IS HELPING THAT GUY! ASK HIS CRAZY GIRLFRIEND!
CAN'T FIND HER EITHER.
THEN ASK HIS EX!

HA! YOU REALLY DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU.
WANNA KNOW WHY?

BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW YOU!


POOR BABY. LOOK AT YOUR REFLECTION. YOU'RE NOT HIM. YOU'RE JUST SOME POOR SAP HE DRUGGED AND MESSED WITH, SWEETIE.
THE REAL JOKER WOULD NEVER COME TO SEE ME. AND IF HE DID, HE'D NEVER WALK OUT OF HERE.

THAT'S NOT TRUE...
IS IT?
NOW...
KRSH
"IT'S NOT FUNNY ANYMORE"
MATTHEW ROSENBERG WRITER
CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO ARTIST
ARIF PRIANTO COLORS
TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS
CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO COVER
FRANCESCO MATTINA, LEE BERMEJO, GABRIELE DELL'OTTO VARIANT COVERS
KELLEY JONES & MICHELLE MADSEN '90S VARIANT COVER
DAVE WIELGOSZ ASSOCIATE EDITOR
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR
NEXT: SEEING RED!


THE JOKER
SLOW
CHILDREN AT PLAY
FRAN CAVIL LAF.22
SLOW DOWN! YOU'RE GOING WAY TOO FAST, YOU MANIAC!
ANOTHER BAD DAY FOR THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME. WHILE OUT DISTURBING THE PEACE WITH HIS FAITHFUL SIDEKICKS--JACKANAPES AND GAGGY--THE JOKER HAS RUN INTO A GROUP OF FRIENDS...AND ONE ENEMY! ACTUALLY THE ENEMY IS ABOUT TO RUN INTO HIM. BUT WILL THE JOKE BE ON THE JOKER OR WILL HE FINALLY HAVE THE LAST LAUGH?
JOKERS DIE MANY TIMES BEFORE THEIR DEATHS!
MATTHEW ROSENBERG
WRITER
FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA
ART & COLORS
TROY PETERI
LETTERS
DAVE WIELGOSZ
EDITOR

*LAST TIME HE GOT RUN OVER IT WAS BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S TRAIN IN *TIME-TRAVEL TALES* #27.--UNDISPUTED DAVE

BOSS, ARE YOU OKAY?
DO I LOOK OKAY?
YEAH... UMM...OR NO? MAYBE? YOU'VE LOOKED BETTER...
BUT YOU ALWAYS LOOK GREAT. EXCEPT MAYBE NOW. OR MAYBE NOT.
STOP TALKING NOW, GAGGY.

THE NEXT DAY AT THE JOKER'S HOME...
I'M NOT SURE WHY HE EVEN INVITED US OVER.
IF THIS IS ANOTHER ONE OF HIS JOKES I'M NOT GOING TO BE A HAPPY KITTY.
OH, DON'T BE SUCH A SOURPUSS. LAST TIME WAS FUN.*
*TWO-FACE IS REFERRING TO THE JOKER'S PSYCHEDELIC KEY PARTY IN L'IL TRAMP COMICS #16. -- DISCO DAVE.
J
GOODBYE CRUEL WORLD.
J.
OH MY GOD!
DON'T LOOK.
IT'S WORKING! MY FRIENDS REALLY THINK I KICKED THE BUCKET.

A FEW SAD DAYS LATER...
GOT-HAM LAUGHTERHOUSE
EVERYONE TAKE YOUR SEATS, PLEASE... BE SEATED.
SIT THE ☆£% DOWN!
WELCOME EVERYONE TO THE JOKER'S FUNERAL
THANK YOU. WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO SAY GOODBYE TO A...PERSON. AND THAT PERSON WAS THE JOKER.
WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT A MAN WHO NEVER STOPPED TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF?
I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO SAY ABOUT THE MAN MYSELF. HE WAS VERY GOOD AT BEING CREEPY.
IF ANYONE ELSE WOULD LIKE TO COME UP AND SAY A FEW WORDS, NOW IS THE TIME.

HE LAUGHED AT SOCIETY'S CRUELTY. HE TOLD THE PEOPLE TO REJECT THE TRUTHS THEY ARE FORCE-FED. AS A MAN, HE WAS MORTAL. AS AN IDEA, HE LIVES ON IN ALL OF US!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS GOING FOR, BUT NICE OF HIM TO SAY, I GUESS.
I DID NOT CARE FOR HIM.
THAT'S FAIR.
I DON'T KNOW THAT MERE WORDS CAN CAPTURE WHAT WE'RE FEELING. BUT I LEARNED THIS SONG WHEN I PLAYED PROFESSOR HENRY HIGGINS IN AN OFF-BROADWAY PRODUCTION OF--
I HATE ACTORS.
SHREEEEEK!
IN A LOT OF WAYS HE WAS MY BIGGEST RIVAL. BUT HE WAS ALSO MY BIGGEST INSPIRATION.

I HAD NO IDEA.
HE WAS LIKE A BROTHER TO ME. THE FUNNY OLDER BROTHER WHO--
SOMEONE GET THIS IDIOT OFF THE STAGE.
AND JACKANAPES TELL DOGGY TO BURY OLD WAFFLE IN ROAD SO NO ONE FIND JACKANAPES'S FOOD. AND JACKANAPES TELL KITTY TO [illegible] IN BOX SO NO ONE--
...I THINK I NEED TO STOP GOING TO THE GORILLA FOR ADVICE.
I NEVER TOLD HIM THIS, BUT I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS KIND OF FUNNY.
YES!
YOU DIDN'T KNOW HIM LIKE I KNEW HIM. HE WAS SMART, AND STRANGE, AND FUNNY...AND I LOVED HIM!
JUST AS I SUSPECTED!

TA-DAAAA!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
WHAT THE--?!
IS THIS SOME KINDA SICK JOKE?
NO... WAIT, DO YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY?
NO!
OH, THEN NO!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? DRESSING UP LIKE OUR DEAD FRIEND AT HIS FUNERAL?
NO, IT IS ME! I AM YOUR DEAD FRIEND AT HIS FUNERAL!
YOU MISTAKE US FOR FOOLS?
I JUST WANTED TO SEE HOW EVERYONE FELT ABOUT ME. NO REASON TO LIE TO A DEAD MAN, AS I ALWAYS SAY.
I NEVER HEARD THE JOKER SAY THAT!
THIS IMPOSTOR WILL PAY.

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GET HIM!
ET TU, JACKANAPES?
HEY, LOOK! THERE'S NO BODY.
CRAASH
THIS WHOLE THING WAS A JOKE AFTER ALL!
HAHA! HAHA! HAHA!
I KNEW I COULD MAKE THEM LAUGH.
FRAN GAVIL LA F.'22
THE END.

OUT OF THE SHADOWS OF THE DC UNIVERSE...
MEET THE CRISIS AVERSION TACTICAL SQUAD!

WILDC.A.T.S

FROM THE PAGES OF *BATMAN*!

Written by
MATTHEW ROSENBERG

Art by
STEPHEN SEGOVIA

The WildC.A.T.s are back monthly starting in
NOVEMBER

Don't miss the *Wildstorm 30th Anniversary Special*, also out in November!

© & ™ DC.

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

'90s REWIND

Whazzzzup! All November, DC gives props to a totally radical decade with '90s Rewind variant covers and some very special new projects that have roots in the decade that brought us grunge music, frosted tips, and electric Superman. Miss these comics? As if!

'90s REWIND VARIANT COVERS

Throughout November, keep an eye out for 19 different '90s Rewind variant covers celebrating one of the most colorful decades in DC history—complete with retro logos! Of course, it wouldn't be the '90s without some truly off-the-chain cover treatments, and we have you covered, as select '90s variants will be foil covers with multi-level emboss.

THE DEATH OF SUPERMAN 30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

Three decades ago, Doomsday killed Superman in one of the most historic moments in comic book history. Now the original creative teams reunite for a special oversize issue featuring four all-new stories, including the introduction of... Doombreaker! Plus, don't miss *The Death of Superman 30th Anniversary Deluxe Edition* hardcover, on sale in December.

BATMAN/SPAWN: THE CLASSIC COLLECTION

Before the brand-new, all-awesome *Batman/Spawn* one-shot arrives in comics shops this December, the two original '90s stories pairing the Dark Knight and Todd McFarlane's iconic antihero—*Batman/Spawn: War Devil* and *Spawn/Batman*—are back in print in one hardcover volume!

WILDSTORM 30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

In 1992, Jim Lee changed comics history with the founding of WildStorm Productions, and this 100-page one-shot celebrates the legacy of the imprint, with key reprints and new stories charting the future of WildStorm characters in the DC Universe! Speaking of which, November also sees the reimagined *WildC.A.T.s* #1 and DC Black Label's *Waller vs. WildStorm* #1!

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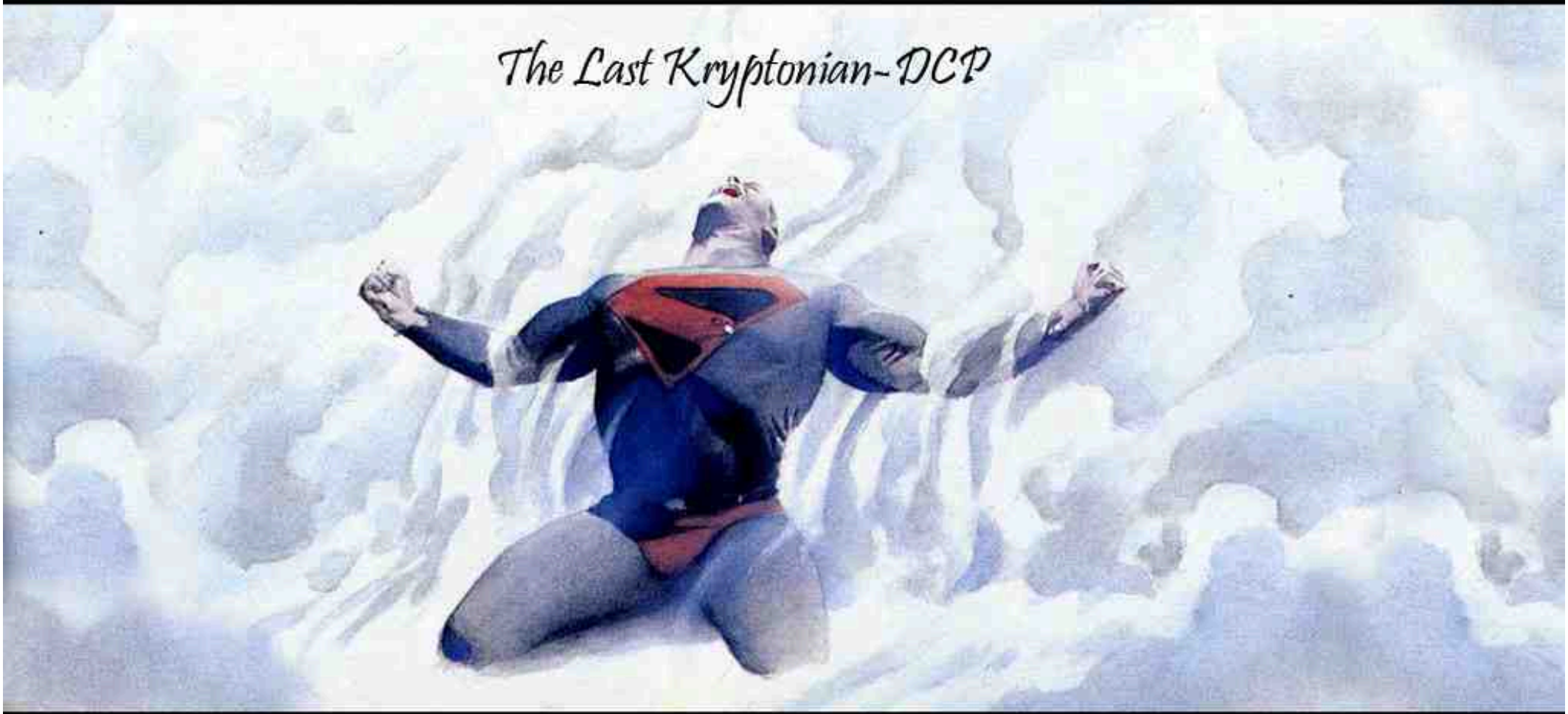
THE JOKER: THE MAN WHO STOPPED LAUGHING 2. January, 2023. Published monthly by DC Comics, 4000 Warner Blvd., Bldg. 700, 2nd Floor, Burbank, CA 91522. GST # is R125921072. Copyright © 2022 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dc.com/ratings.


The Last Kryptonian-DCP